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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,861	02/11/2002	Tetsuro Motoyama	211636US2	1357

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EXAMINER	
HOSSAIN, TANIM M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2145	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/068,861	MOTOYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tanim Hossain	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 February 2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *2/11/02* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/20/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 2-4 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims are grammatically incorrect. Particularly the phrase "communication means is according an" generates confusion. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 24-26 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claim should read: "common to all interfacing devices" to be grammatically accurate. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The preamble, which is an apparatus, does not coincide with the body of the claim, which is a process. In addition, there is no transitional element to connect the preamble and body, such as terms like "comprising", etc. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 25 and 26 recite the limitation "the interfacing device". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richman (U.S. 6,003,097) in view of Cochran (U.S. 2002/0161867).

As per claim 1, Richman teaches a method for a controlling device to establish a communication means for an interfacing device, comprising the following steps: updating in a first database of the interfacing device (column 4 lines 27-55); querying the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer of the interfacing device (column 8, lines 6-13); querying the interfacing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device, for the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful (column 8, lines 6-13); updating in the first database the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the query for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is successful (column 4, lines 27-55); establishing a communication means for the interfacing device according to information stored in the first database (column 4, lines 27-55). Richman does not specifically teach the realization of

a location of the interfacing device. Cochran teaches the auto-detection of a location of an interfacing device (paragraph 0013). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a sensing of the location of a configurable object, as taught by Cochran in the system of Richman. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that the controlling device would have to know where the interfacing device is located for the invention to have utility. Both inventions are from the same field of endeavor, namely the auto-configuration of computer objects.

As per claim 2, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according to an interfacing communication means that is particular to all devices manufactured by the manufacturer of the interfacing device (Richman: column 6, lines 1-10; column 37; line 59 – column 38, line 10; column 50, line 64 – column 51, line 16).

As per claim 3, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according to an interfacing communication means that is common to all devices (Richman: column 6, lines 1-10; column 37; line 59 – column 38, line 10; column 50, line 64 – column 51, line 16).

As per claim 4, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according to an interfacing communication means that is common to at least one manufacturer of interfacing devices (Richman: column 6, lines 1-10; column 37; line 59 – column 38, line 10; column 50, line 64 – column 51, line 16).

As per claim 5, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according to an interfacing communication means that is common to at least one known model of the identified manufacturer of the interfacing device (Richman: column 6, lines 1-10; column 37; line 59 – column 38, line 10; column 50, line 64 – column 51, line 16).

As per claim 6, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device utilizes the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device to query the interfacing device with model identification codes that are particular to the manufacturer of the interfacing device (Richman: column 8, lines 1-12).

As per claim 7, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, comprising a further step of querying the interfacing device for the unique identification of the interfacing device

prior to the step of querying the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device (Richman: column 7, lines 10-20).

As per claim 8, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the unique identification of the interfacing device is a unique sequence of data designated to the interfacing device by the manufacturer of the interfacing device (Richman: column 8, lines 1-13).

As per claim 9, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the step of updating in the first database the location of the interfacing device includes updating the unique identification of the interfacing device in the first database (Richman: column 4, lines 11-27).

As per claim 10, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, but does not specifically teach that the querying is executed by SMNP. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this component, as the use of SMNP to query network objects is extremely well known in the art. The motivation to use this protocol lies in the fact that this would add functionality to the invention by diversifying what protocol can be used.

As per claim 11, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the interfacing device is accomplished by automatically detecting that the interfacing device is electrically coupled to the controlling device (Cochran: paragraph 0034).

As per claim 12, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the interfacing device is accomplished by an input by a user (Richman: column 4, lines 57-65).

As per claim 13, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the controlling device and the interfacing device are networked computer devices coupled to one another by a network (Cochran: 0012).

As per claim 14, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 13, wherein the step of realizing the location of the interfacing device is accomplished by the controlling device detecting that the network location of the interfacing device has changed (Richman: 4; 57-65; Cochran: 0006).

As per claim 15, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 13, wherein the location of the interfacing device is a network location of the interfacing device on the network (Cochran: 0028).

As per claim 16, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 13, wherein the network location of the interfacing device is an Internet address (Cochran: 0028).

As per claim 17, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, but does not specifically teach the accessing of the database by an interface independent of the database file format. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this limitation, as it is well known in the art. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that having multiple interface types being able to access database files would allow the invention to be more diverse and versatile, such that it becomes functional for many interfaces.

As per claim 18, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 17, but does not specifically teach the employment of the ODBC standard. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this component, as it is well known in the art. The ODBC standard is one to which many databases meet.

As per claim 19, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first database is duplicated on a second database (Richman: 4; 42-55).

As per claim 20, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 19, but does not specifically teach the communication between databases being executed by email. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this functionality, as Richman-Cochran allows for the use of any type of network communications, thus allowing for email.

As per claim 21, Richman-Cochran teaches the method of claim 20, but does not specifically teach the use of SNMP to transmit the email. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to include this functionality, since most email transfers involve the use of SNMP, and is thus very well known.

As per claim 22, Richman-Cochran teaches a controlling device arranged to: realize the location of an interfacing device; update in a database the location of the interfacing device; query the interfacing device for an identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device; updating in the database the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device, if the controlling device is unable to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device; query the interfacing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer, for an identity of the model of the interfacing device if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device; update in the database the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the model of the interfacing device; establish a communication means for the interfacing device according to information stored in the database (Richman: column 4 lines 27-55; column 6, lines 1-10;

column 37; line 59 – column 38, line 10; column 50, line 64 – column 51, line 16; Cochran: paragraph 0013).

Claim 23 is rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

As per claim 24, Richman-Cochran teaches a method for a controlling device to establish a communication means for an interfacing device, comprising the following steps: querying the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer and the identity of the model of the interfacing device (Richman: column 4, lines 11-55); establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing devices if the querying of the interfacing device did not identify either the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device (Richman: column 6, lines 1-24); establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing devices of the manufacturer of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified the manufacturer of the interfacing device and the querying of the interfacing device did not identify the model of the interfacing device (Richman: column 5, lines 41-67); and establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified both the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device (Richman: column 5, lines 1-40).

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected on the same basis as claim 24.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 571/272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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